

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 101400Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4500

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USNATO 6100

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF MINISTERIAL MEETING

SECSTATE PASS USNMR SHAPE, USLOSACLANT, CINCLANT, USCINCEUR,  
AND SECDEF

REF: A. STATE 265519 081901Z NOV 75; B. BONN 18346 101115Z NOV 75

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, CHARGE BRIEFED SYG LUNS IN GENERAL TERMS ON AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND'S PLANNED APPROACH TO FRG MOD LEBER CONCERNING POSTPONEMENT OF THE NPG MINISTERIAL SCHEDULE FOR HAMBURG, NOVEMBER 19-21. DESPITE CHARGE'S STRONG REPRESENTATION IN FAVOR OF DECEMBER 8, LUNS STRONGLY REACTED AGAINST THE SUGGESTION OF HOLDING THE NPG MINISTERIAL IN BRUSSELS ON THAT DAY. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD ALLOW ONLY ONE DAY FOR THE NPG AND THAT FURTHERMORE IT WAS NOT A CONVENIENT DATE IN VIEW OF OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS DURING THE WEEK OF THE 8TH. HE SAID THAT AS SECRETARY GENERAL HE "NEARLY EXCLUDED" HOLDING THE NPG MINISTERIAL ON DECEMBER 8. HE LATER SAID HE WAS 90 PERCENT CERTAIN MEETING COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED ON THAT DATE. HE THOUGHT, ON BALANCE, THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HOLD THE MEETING IN HAMBURG AS SCHEDULED, EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE A NON-MEETING, AND THAT THE MAJOR NPG ISSUES COULD BE TAKEN UP AT THE SUBSEQUENT NPG MINISTERIAL.

2. IN CHECKING HIS CALENDAR, SYG LUNS SAID THAT IF THE NPG  
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MINISTERIAL CANNOT BE HELD AS SCHEDULED, HE WOULD PREFER DATES DECEMBER 19 AND 20 WHICH WOULD BE A FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. HE ALSO RULED OUT HOLDING MEETING SOME TIME BEFORE DECEMBER 8 BECAUSE OF HIS TIGHT SCHEDULE, INCLUDING WEU MEETING.

LUNS ALSO NOTED THAT ANY DECISION ON CHANGING THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NPG MINISTERIAL WOULD REQUIRE CONSULTATION WITH ALL OF THE NPG PERMREPS.

3. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT NPG ALLIES WILL FIND DATES OF DECEMBER 19-20 ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD. FURTHERMORE, THESE DATES WOULD REQUIRE SECDEF TO RETURN TO EUROPE SHORTLY FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 9-10 DPC. DECEMBER 8 DATE, AS INDICATED IN REF B, PRESENTS PROBLEMS BECAUSE EUROGROUP MINISTERS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET ON THAT DATE, AND IN ADDITION, MILITARY COMMITTEE CHIEFS OF STAFF ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET THEN. AN ALTERNATIVE OF DECEMBER 5-6 MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH AS INDICATED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, SYG LUNS WOULD PROBABLY OPPOSE IT. WE BELIEVE THAT, ON BALANCE, BEST ALTERNATIVE MAY BE TO PROPOSE RESCHEDULING THE NPG DURING MID-JANUARY, WHICH COULD PROVIDE BETTER TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR SECDEF, AND ALLOW MORE TIME IN WASHINGTON TO PREPARE SUBSTANTIVE PRESENTATIONS FOR THE MEETING. IN VIEW OF PRESS OF TIME, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONSULT VERY SOON WITH OTHER NPG PERMREPS TO SECURE AGREEMENT ON ANY DEFERRAL. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SCHEDULE DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT BY NPG PERMREPS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING NAC MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12, AT WHICH TIME WE WOULD HOPE TO SUGGEST ALTERNATE DATES AND VENUE. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY COB NOVEMBER 11. STREATOR

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USNMR SHAPE, USLOSACLANT, CINCLANT, USCINCEUR AND SECDEF.

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